

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

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TO: [REDACTED] Assistant to the Deputy Administrator,
Central Security Agency

FROM: [REDACTED] Acting Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Planning of Department of Commerce Project "Trade
Between the Free World and the Soviet Bloc"

1. I refer to the question of financing this project, as discussed
at the meeting held in Admiral Bancroft's office on 6 February, and for
your information and use, if necessary, briefly outline CIA's interest
in this matter.

2. Our primary objective or obligation, as you know, is to supply
strategic intelligence, and the project under discussion relates specifically
to an important segment of this activity. One of our indicated
functions is to follow trade and payments between Bloc countries and the
Free World, as well as inter-Bloc and internal trade and finance, and
for this the material to be provided by the project under discussion
constitutes a basic requirement. While the development of intelligence
in the field of East-West trade will involve also the use of other
material, basic trade statistics are manifestly necessary to any work
in this field; they provide the basis for analyses relating to a subject
currently important to several government agencies, and as we provide
such analyses I would express a modest hope that this agency may make
to the project, in its final form, a substantial contribution.

3. As discussed at the meeting, it is believed desirable that the
method of financing the subject be taken up with representatives of the
Stream of the Budget before a final determination is made concerning the
contributions that may be necessary for this and other participating
agencies.

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